



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

**A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor**

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Recent News

- On September 14, 2011, the OEIG hosted a 24-person delegation of governmental officials from Shenyang, China, participating in a government study program offered by the Illinois Institute of Technology.
- The OEIG is pleased to announce that Chris Noel was appointed investigator within the office's complaints and compliance unit, effective October 5, 2011. Chris served for 30 years with the LaGrange Police Department, most recently as lieutenant in charge of administrative services and watch commander for the patrol division day shift.

Please visit the OEIG's website to view current job opportunities within the office.

Ethics-Related Legislation Introduced



On October 11, 2011, State Representative Fred Crespo (44th District) introduced a pair of bills aimed at increasing transparency and strengthening State employee ethics training compliance. State Senator Susan Garrett (29th District) will be the chief sponsor of both bills in the Illinois

Senate.

House Bill 3831 will increase transparency in State government by giving each Executive Inspector General the discretion to release investigative reports to the public when there is a finding of misconduct against a State official or employee.

Currently, the law only mandates that reports be released if an employee is being terminated or suspended for three or more days or if the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) wishes to release the report. House Bill 3831 provides the Executive Inspectors General the additional discretion to release their own reports when the EEC does not.

"The release of reports in which misconduct is found will not only increase transparency for citizens but will have a much-needed deterrent effect on future misconduct," stated Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza.

Representative Crespo also introduced House Bill 3830, which sets a minimum fine of \$250 for State employees, appointees, and officials who fail to complete mandatory ethics training on a timely basis.

Considerable time and effort is spent to ensure that individuals complete ethics training in a timely manner. "State employees and appointees who complete ethics training in a timely manner are better informed of their ethical obligations, including newly adopted laws or rules," stated David Keahl, the OEIG's Director of Ethics Training and Compliance.

Jessica Reese
Legislative Assistant Inspector General

Annual Ethics Training

As we approach the end of another calendar year, State employees and appointees under the OEIG's jurisdiction are reminded that State law requires that they complete ethics training at least once each calendar year. Also, new employees and appointees must complete training no later than 30 days after commencement of their employment or appointment.

Failure to complete ethics training may subject an individual to disciplinary action and a fine of up to \$5,000. A newly effective rule of the Executive Ethics Commission requires year-end reporting to the commission of the names of individuals who fail to complete ethics training. Also, if enacted, House Bill 3830 will establish a minimum fine of \$250 for failing to complete training.

David Keahl
*Director of Ethics Training
& Compliance*

Calendar of Events: October 18, 2011 – The OEIG will host a delegation from the Czech Republic. October 20, 2011 – EIG Meza will address the board of the Regional Transportation Authority.